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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 260

HELENA INDEPENDENT-RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

JANUARY, 1965

Winter Job Trends Hold, Another Record Set

Record For December—As 1964 ended, labor market activity in Montana continued to exhibit steady trends which highlighted most of the months of that year. December 1964 non-farm employment figures compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reveal that a record breaking 173,800 wage earners were on non-farm payrolls at mid-December. This was 200 more than the prior December record set in 1963. Agricultural employment did not fare as well due chiefly to severe winter weather in many state areas during the month. Total agricultural employment, at a December figure of 31,100, shows a drop of 1,800 from a year ago.

Seasonal Change of 300—The November to December employment change was but a slight 300 reflecting chiefly weather-caused declines in outdoor industries. Construction with a monthly drop of 800 headed the list, but still maintained a working force of 10,000. Highway construction came to a virtual halt, and the work force at Yellowstone Dam was trimmed substantially. Work on many major commercial building projects kept on fairly good schedules despite the adverse weather. Manufacturing industries registered a decline of 300 workers, with 200 of these being separated from logging and lumbering segments and the other 100 from food processing firms. A drop of 300 each also occurred in the transportation, communications and utilities

group, and in government employment. The decrease in government employment was all at state and local levels. Federal employment, at 10,900, did not change from the November total. Total mining employment of 7,500 also did not move during the month, but was 300 above year ago figures.

Big Upswing In Trade—Payrolls of trade establishments recorded the only increase during December, rising 1,500 above the November employment total. Retail firms added 1,300 workers while 200 more were employed by wholesale units. Holiday trade was brisk in most major cities of the state. Heavy snow and cold weather cut deeply into holiday traffic on main streets in the north-eastern section of the state. Labor demand in clerical, trade, and service occupations was on the upswing in Helena gearing for another legislative session.

Oil Fields Active—Oil exploration and drilling crews were fairly active in the eastern section of the state especially in the Wolf Point area. Some rigs in the Roundup area were stacked as dry holes were drilled but interest in further exploration in that area remains high. Coal mining in Roundup is confined to small mines with employment but a shadow compared to past years when three major coal companies were operating.

Job Placements Up—Job placements by 22 local employment offices ap-

proached the 2,300 mark during December. More than 1,900 workers were placed in industrial jobs while another 350 were employed in agriculture. Job placements in trade industries headed the list with 622 workers. Service industries hired 236, private households 360, and manufacturing 194. Of the total non-farm placements, 656 were women. Industrial employers listed 2,289 job openings during the month, up 300 from last year.

Labor Surplus Near Peak—The number of registered jobseekers at the state's twenty-two local employment offices rose by 3,000 during December to a total of 13,361. This was 2,900 below the December 1963 figure. Many of the new December jobseekers were housewives, students, and other family workers seeking temporary employment during the holiday season. Traditionally the jobseeker peak is expected during late January or early February and then starts to diminish as the first stirrings of spring activity cut sharply into the labor surplus built up during the winter months.

UCC Claims Down—Despite bad weather throughout much of the state during December claims for unemployment benefits were 3,100 fewer than in December 1963. A weekly average of 7,800 claims were filed during the month. The winter peak of UCC claims is expected to be from 800 to 1,000 less than last year if present trends continue.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Nov. 1964	Oct. 1964	Nov. 1963	Nov. 1964	Oct. 1964	Nov. 1963	Nov. 1964	Oct. 1964	Nov. 1963	Nov. 1964	Oct. 1964	Nov. 1963	Nov. 1964	Oct. 1964	Nov. 1963
All Manufacturing	2.9	3.7	2.7	2.1	3.4	2.1	3.9	5.1	3.1	1.6	2.5	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.1
Durable Goods	3.1	4.0	3.1	1.9	3.6	2.3	4.6	5.5	3.6	1.6	2.8	1.7	2.2	1.5	1.3
Primary Metal	5.2	2.6	4.8	2.1	2.1	2.1	5.0	4.0	1.4	.5	.9	.3	3.4	1.3	.8
Nondurable Goods	2.4	2.9	2.0	2.4	2.9	1.8	2.6	4.1	2.1	1.6	1.3	1.1	.7	1.6	.7
All Mining	9.3	5.0	9.7	1.6	2.5	4.9	*12.4	6.2	5.9	3.2	2.8	3.2	5.2	.8	.6
Metal Mining	8.8	5.3	3.7	1.3	1.7	3.7	*10.4	7.2	4.4	3.1	3.3	2.2	1.4	.4	.2

*High separation rate due in part to interplant transfers.

Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary December 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Phillipsburg—(362 jobseekers, 66 new, 275 men, 87 women). Seasonal layoffs in construction, logging, and service industries accounted for most new unemployment during December. Smelter employment stable at present after layoffs in prior months. Economic conditions show down turn from last year due to shift of copper concentrating to new plant in Butte.

BILLINGS, Columbia, Hardin, Laurel Red Lodge, Roundup—(2,351 jobseekers, 767 new, 2,162 men, 689 women). Heavy construction suffered most during December's bad weather. Work on Yellowtail Dam, highway projects, and some building shut down until weather improved. Work continued on airport expansion micro-wave station and new federal building. Oil refinery expansion completed. Oil field work in Roundup area dropped with many rigs stacked for the winter. Trade and service industries exhibit good trends. Farm labor slowing with end of heavy work season.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(435 jobseekers, 199 new, 350 men, 135 women). Construction and manufacturing industries showed most layoffs during December. Logging and sawmill employment holds good with some temporary interruptions because of weather. Trade and service employment adjusting to winter levels after holiday season. Farm labor demand at minimum.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,072 jobseekers, 296 new, 770 men, 302 women). Employment trends show improvement over last year with stability of metal mining operations. Trade and service volume at good levels. Employment declines occurred mostly in construction and other outdoor ventures. Farm labor demand practically nil.

CUT BANK—(375 jobseekers, 70 new, 295 men, 80 women). Cold weather and deep snow cut labor demand in both farm and industry. All outside work at standstill. Very little hiring in trade and service firms. Oil field activity slowed with only one rig working.

DILLON—(237 jobseekers, 77 new, 187 men, 50 women). Employment activity subsided in most outdoor work during December. Most highway and building projects either closed or on short crews until weather improves.

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Dec. 64	Nov. 64	Dec. 63	Nov. 64 to Dec. 64	Dec. 63 to Dec. 64
Civilian Work Force	245.8	247.4	249.6	—1.6	—3.8
Total Employment	233.8	237.2	235.7	—3.4	—1.9
Total Non-agricultural Employment	202.7	204.1	202.8	—1.4	—0.1
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	173.8	174.1	173.6	—0.3	0.2
Total Agricultural Employment	31.1	33.1	32.9	—2.0	—1.8
Labor Management Disputes	.2	.2	.1	0.0	0.1
Total Unemployment	11.8	10.0	13.8	1.8	—2.0
Percent Unemployed	4.8	4.0	5.5	—	—
U. S. Unemployment Rate	NA	NA	5.3	—	—

January opening of new retirement home will make 25 jobs. Some small mining firms reopening after temporary shutdown. Farm labor demand chiefly for livestock care and feeding.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(302 jobseekers, 45 new, 205 men, 97 women). Reality of impending closure of air base affects community plans. Employers thinking in terms of cutbacks instead of expansion. Plans for some building projects already cancelled. Main street hiring held to the very minimum. Stockmen concerned by low cattle prices cut normal winter hiring.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(224 jobseekers, 49 new, 115 men, 109 women). Deep snow and below zero weather put a clamp on all outdoor hiring including construction and oil fields. Opening of new retail store made 8 jobs. Other trade and service firms relatively quiet. Fairly active demand for livestock feeders.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,582 jobseekers, 574 new, 1,110 men, 472 women). New work applications exceeded last year by 100 with most coming from idled construction workers. Most will return to their jobs with better weather. Trade firms did most hiring during December. Passive trends covered most other industry groups. Some upswing in smelter employment expected during January.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(314 jobseekers, 67 new, 262 men, 52 women). Work applications doubled from the prior month as winter weather cut heavily into outdoor occupations. Construction, logging, and forest service showed the most decline. Sawmills continue on fairly good schedules. Only limited demand for farm help.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(409 jobseekers, 111 new, 360 men, 49 women).

Construction, agriculture, and other outdoor endeavors in grip of winter with reduced employment in all. Labor dispute between retail clerks and employers left adverse effects on main street during holiday season. Few farm jobs for livestock feeders.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(601 jobseekers, 233 new, 466 men, 135 women). Employment holds good in most industries with exception of construction shutdowns forced by bad weather. Shortages of cooks and waitresses persists. Opening of two cafes made 51 jobs. \$1 million cement plant expansion completed. Fairly steady farm labor demand.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,307 jobseekers 235 new, 1,058 men, 249 women). Weather-caused shutdowns in construction and logging caused most new unemployment during December. Downturn also evident in trade and service firms. Seasonal declines also occurred in lumber manufacturing and government projects. Farm labor demand mostly for potato sorting and grading.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(388 jobseekers, 92 new, 309 men, 79 women). Labor demand in industries and farm below last month and last year. Main street activities at minimum. Lack of major construction projects shows effects in other industry groups. Farm employment economies reducing demand for farm labor but some upswing expected next month.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(327 jobseekers, 45 new, 243 men, 84 women). Job hires show 30% decline from last year. Most highway projects closed by bad weather. Sawmills and logging operations on uncertain schedules until weather improves. Main street trends fairly stable. Supply of farm workers exceeds demand.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	153.3	153.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	173.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.6	174.0	181.3	182.3	183.0	180.9	178.2	174.1	173.8*	

*Preliminary Estimate

All employment estimate revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period Jan. 1963 to date will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary December 1

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(238 jobseekers, 66 new, 162 men, 76 women). Industry hiring at record for December. Farm labor demand also shows substantial increase mostly for care and feeding of livestock. Opening of three small business firms and addition to shopping center made more jobs in trade occupations. New government project employs 15 men.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,471 jobseekers, 592 new, 1,137 men, 334 women). Most heavy construction, including highway projects, closed until spring. Employment in most other industries reduced to winter staffs. Lumber mill employment stable for the most part but bad weather affected some logging activities. Wind-up of sugar beet refining will idle 350 workers in January. Farm labor demand not too brisk.

POLSON—(283 jobseekers, 55 new, 236 men, 47 women). December hiring in outdoor work came to a complete halt due to bad weather. Main street activity also affected with practically no hiring for holiday season. Lumber and sawmill employment holds to fairly good trends but with some temporary shutdowns.

SHELBY—(186 jobseekers, 43 new, 163 men, 23 women). All hiring slowed by bad weather with construction and oil fields hardest hit. Employment in trade and service firms at seasonal levels but with very little new hiring. Farm labor demand slowed by weather conditions.

SIDNEY—(157 jobseekers, 45 new, 127 men, 30 women). Full time hiring in most industries practically non-existent in face of continued snow and cold weather. Retail trade estimated 15% below last year. Farm economy in hard grip of worst winter in many years.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(174 jobseekers, 61 new, 150 men, 24 women). Employment declines in construction, logging, sawmills, and forest service are chiefly the result of bad weather. Job applications exceed last year by 35%. Some workers will be recalled when weather moderates. No calls for farm help.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(316 jobseekers, 58 new, 269 men, 47 women). Employment trends in most industries fairly stable during December with exception of construction hit by bad weather. Hiring noted at fuel refinery, feed mill, and oil fields. Little change noted in main street employment. Only little farm labor demand.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 728 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,174 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Dec. 1964 (2)	Nov. 1964 (3)	Dec. 1963	Nov. '64 to Dec. '64	Dec. '63 Against Dec. '64
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	173,800	174,100	173,600	—300	200
Manufacturing	21,900	22,200	21,900	—300	00
Durable goods	13,000	13,200	13,200	—200	200
Lumber and timber products	8,100	8,300	8,500	—200	400
Primary metals	3,300	3,300	3,100	00	200
Other (4)	1,600	1,600	1,600	00	00
Nondurable goods	8,900	9,000	8,700	—100	200
Food and kindred products	5,100	5,200	5,000	—100	100
Printing and publishing	1,700	1,700	1,700	00	00
Petroleum refining	1,200	1,200	1,200	00	00
Other (5)	900	900	800	00	100
Mining	7,500	7,500	7,200	00	300
Metal mining	4,700	4,700	4,300	00	400
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,000	1,000	900	00	100
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,800	1,800	2,000	00	200
Contract Construction	10,000	10,800	10,500	—800	500
Contractors, building construction	3,600	4,000	3,600	—400	00
Contractors, other than building	2,700	3,000	3,200	—300	500
Contractors, special trade	3,700	3,800	3,700	—100	00
Transportation and utilities	17,100	17,400	17,200	—300	100
Interstate railroads	7,400	7,600	7,700	—200	300
Transportation except railroads	3,900	3,900	3,800	00	100
Utilities including communication	5,800	5,900	5,700	—100	100
Trade	42,000	40,500	42,500	1,500	500
Wholesale trade	8,300	8,100	8,500	200	200
Retail trade	33,700	32,400	34,000	1,300	300
General merchandise and apparel	7,700	6,400	7,500	1,300	200
Food stores	5,100	5,100	5,300	00	200
Eating and drinking establishments	8,200	8,400	7,900	—200	300
Automotive and filling stations	6,400	6,400	6,800	00	400
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,300	6,100	6,500	200	200
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,800	6,800	6,800	00	00
Services and miscellaneous	24,000	24,100	23,600	—100	400
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	2,700	2,800	2,600	—100	100
Personal services	2,100	2,100	2,100	00	00
Other (6)	19,200	19,200	18,900	00	300
Government	44,500	44,800	43,900	—300	600
Federal	10,900	10,900	11,600	00	700
State and local	33,600	33,900	32,300	—300	1,300
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	21,300	21,900	21,600	—600	300
Manufacturing	3,000	3,100	3,000	—100	00
Contract construction	1,700	2,300	1,800	—600	100
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,100	2,200	00	100
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,600	5,400	5,700	200	100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,500	3,600	3,600	—100	100
Government	4,100	4,100	4,000	00	100
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	24,900	25,300	24,600	—400	300
Manufacturing	3,400	3,400	3,200	00	200
Contract construction	1,700	2,100	1,800	—400	100
Transportation and utilities	2,600	2,600	2,600	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,600	7,500	7,700	100	100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,400	4,500	4,200	—100	200
Government	3,800	3,800	3,700	00	100

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER 1964 AND DECEMBER 1963

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	Dec. 1964		Dec. 1963		Dec. 1964		Dec. 1963		Dec. 1964				Dec. 1963				Wk. 1-1	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1964	1963
Anaconda	66	14	147	54	362	84	458	121	18	5	23	8	41	1	42	13	247	386
Billings	767	172	780	197	2,851	683	2,814	679	419	60	479	142	401	72	473	169	1,623	1,642
Boreman	199	35	173	22	485	95	446	92	148	23	171	30	120	16	136	33	344	261
Butte	296	70	380	88	1,072	225	1,229	277	119	2	121	18	98	7	105	32	642	702
Cut Bank	70	19	77	27	375	120	381	130	14	3	17	5	40	7	47	10	213	207
Dillon	77	24	100	29	237	58	270	71	13	39	52	6	18	43	61	33	149	189
Glasgow	45	5	63	6	302	37	227	50	54	7	61	8	48	6	54	12	255	274
Glendive	49	4	81	27	224	25	212	53	40	16	56	8	39	7	46	11	136	137
Great Falls	574	53	475	107	1,582	398	2,494	675	187	14	201	35	215	30	245	83	1,455	1,716
Hamilton	67	11	96	18	314	74	324	68	34	6	40	7	25	4	29	4	250	244
Havre	111	14	129	12	409	108	329	77	33	24	57	6	53	5	58	17	292	311
Helena	233	33	170	38	601	166	688	213	119	18	137	45	127	11	138	28	546	539
Kalispell	235	44	221	40	1,307	292	1,123	307	117	8	125	29	124	8	132	34	994	898
Lewistown	92	22	83	26	388	75	398	103	21	32	53	9	32	45	77	10	260	331
Livingston	45	2	25	2	327	54	337	77	40	29	69	6	57	15	72	18	253	310
Miles City	66	10	105	17	238	52	294	73	84	34	118	22	36	18	54	19	163	234
Missoula	592	123	507	88	1,471	326	1,015	180	245	10	255	49	198	7	205	43	844	745
Polson	55	15	62	16	283	70	348	91	9		9	1	17	2	19	8	255	209
Shelby	43	13	159	46	186	64	222	71	24	3	27	4	27	6	33	7	140	154
Sidney	45	7	70	8	157	26	162	24	34	8	42	4	31	7	38	7	122	119
Thomp. Falls	61	8	45	10	174	43	147	29	40		40	10	27		27	11	124	124
Wolf Point	58	16	42	5	316	70	333	71	25	4	29	6	8	8	16	3	198	204
TOTALS	3,846	714	3,995	883	13,661	3,145	14,251	3,532	1,837	345	2,182	458	782	325	2,107	605	9,505	9,936

*Includes 944 claims of the Fed. UC Program 943 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. (1) 1964	Nov. (2) 1961	Dec. 1963	Dec. (1) 1964	Nov. (2) 1964	Dec. 1963	Dec. (1) 1964	Nov. (2) 1964	Dec. 1963
All Manufacturing	110.70	109.47	104.68	40.4	40.1	39.5	2.74	2.73	2.65
Durable Goods	109.75	108.00	103.60	40.8	40.6	40.0	2.69	2.66	2.59
Primary Metals	117.88	111.50	105.72	42.1	40.4	39.3	2.80	2.76	2.69
Nondurable Goods	111.95	111.22	106.81	39.7	39.3	38.7	2.82	2.83	2.76
Food and Kindred Products	98.88	98.01	89.35	41.2	40.5	37.7	2.40	2.42	2.37
All Mining	113.54	114.64	118.37	38.1	38.6	41.1	2.98	2.97	2.88
Metal Mining	106.95	107.53	115.44	36.5	36.7	39.4	2.93	2.93	2.93
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	119.74	109.57	105.57	43.7	39.7	39.1	2.74	2.76	2.70

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
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HELENA, MONTANA

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